



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force

Workgroup B: Information Sharing & Coordination

8/11/10 STATUS UPDATE

The Information Sharing & Coordination Workgroup is charged with the following:

Develop a set of recommendations that is consistent with the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and does all of the following:

1. Coordinates, facilitates, and centralizes the exchange of information related to state and local planning, zoning, and development between state agencies and the General Assembly.
2. Coordinates discussions concerning a proposed geographic information system between the producers and the users of such systems.
3. Allows the efficient production and dissemination of population and other demographic statistical forecasts.
4. Creates a centralized storage location for all comprehensive plans.
5. Facilitates the cooperation of state and local governments with comprehensive planning, educational, and research programs.
6. Provides and administers technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning.
7. Provides information to local governments related to state, federal, and other resources for comprehensive planning.

The workgroup is chaired by Don Temeyer, H.R. Green. Staff assistance is provided by Heather Hackbarth (IDOM) and Susan Judkins Josten (RIO).

Workgroup members include:

Eric Abrams, IDOT
Kevin Blanshan, INRCOG
Francis Boggus, Department of Cultural Affairs/Great Places
Mickey Carlson, Townraft/Iowa Finance Authority
Bill Freeland, House Democratic Caucus Staff
Ron Gaines, City of Cedar Falls
Bruce Greiner, Office of Energy Independence
LaVon Griffieon, 1000 Friends of Iowa
Linda Howard, Department of Cultural Affairs/Great Places
Pam Jochum, State Senator, Dubuque

Theresa Kehoe, Senate Democratic Caucus Staff
Deb Kozel, Legislative Services Agency
Marybeth Mellick, Iowa State Association of Counties
Jace Mikels, Senate Democratic Caucus Staff
Joe Mowers, Iowa Workforce Development
Al Muhlenbruck, Trioak Foods, Oakville
Ruth Randleman, Mayor, Carlisle
Brian Schoon, INRCOG
Michelle Shaffer, Department on Aging
Ken Sharp, Department of Public Health
Kirk Siegle, Southeast Iowa Farmer
Aaron Todd, RIO

Two meetings have been held, on July 7, 2010 and July 28, 2010. Minutes are attached. As outlined in the proposed timeline, the group became established and began presentations and discussions. The group is still welcoming new members at future meetings. No recommendations have been determined at this time, although the group has discussed the importance of continued support for the State Library's demographic information.

Presentations have included:

- Eric Abrams, DOT, update on Geographic Information System (GIS) status
- Kevin Blanshan, INRCOG, Review of Planning Resources
- Professor Brian Ohm, University of Wisconsin, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, review of Wisconsin's 1999 planning law and current status
- Associate Professor Jerry Anthony, University of Iowa, Program in Urban and Regional Planning, chronology of state efforts to create incentives for planning

The workgroup's next meeting will be held August 25, 2010, from 10 AM – 3 PM in Conference Room 2 at the Rebuild Iowa Office, Wallace State Office Building. Tentative agenda items include discussions with the Iowa Flood Center and Iowa State University. A proposal for a Geographic Information Office and council will be reviewed. The group intends to discuss all seven of the areas of recommendation assigned to the group. They will consider the impact of watershed issues and agricultural issues regarding planning.

The Information Sharing and Coordination Workgroup is coordinating efforts with Workgroup A: Integration of Smart Planning Principles on the Intergovernmental Coordination and Information Sharing Committee. That committee met on July 7th and plans to meet again in September.

7-7-10 Meeting Notes – *Final (Approved 7/28/10)*
Information Sharing & Coordination Work Group
(Smart Planning Task Force Established under SF2389)

11 AM

Rebuild Iowa Office, Conference Room 2

Wallace Building

502 E. Ninth Street, 2nd Floor

Des Moines, IA 50319

Attendees (* indicates telephonic participation)

Don Temeyer, HR Green, Chair
Susan Judkins Josten, Rebuild Iowa Office
Aaron Todd, Rebuild Iowa Office
Eric Abrams, IDOT
Kevin Blanshan, INRCOG
Mickey Carlson, TownCraft/Iowa Finance Authority
Bruce Greiner, Office of Energy Independence
LaVon Griffieon, 1000 Friends of Iowa
Deb Kozel, Legislative Services Agency
Jace Mikels, Senate Democratic Caucus Staff
Brian Schoon, INRCOG
Michelle Shaffer, Department on Aging
Ken Sharp, Department of Public Health *
Ruth Randleman, Mayor of Carlisle and Task Force Co-Chair *

1. Organizational Details – Next Meetings
 - A. The group will meet from 10:30 AM – Noon on July 28, 2010, at the Rebuild Iowa Office
 - B. The next meeting of the full task force is August 11th. Work group members not on the task force are welcome to attend as an observer.
 - C. Another meeting of the work group is tentatively set for August 25, 2010 from 10:30 AM – Noon at the Rebuild Iowa Office.
 - D. Additional members will be sought. Send any suggestions to the chair.
2. Review work group tasks
 - A. Develop a set of recommendations that is consistent with the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and does all of the following:
 1. Coordinates, facilitates and centralizes the exchange of information related to state and local planning, zoning, and development between state agencies and the General Assembly.

2. Coordinates discussions concerning a proposed geographic information system between the producers and the users of such systems.
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 7. Provides information to local governments related to state, federal, and other resources for comprehensive planning.
3. Brainstorming on where relevant planning information currently resides
- A. Eric Abrams from the DOT briefly reviewed GIS information that was covered in the committee meeting preceding the work group meeting.
 - B. LaVon Griffieon says that the NRCS also has GIS data available.
 - C. Census data – the State Library data is excellent and we may want to recommend continuing to support its collection and maintenance
 - D. Mickey Carlson recommended that we review the [Boston Indicators Project](#), a twenty-year project to develop sources of data to show how well the city is doing on ten parameters; Towncraft thinks it's a good idea for Iowa to have a sustainability index
 - E. The City Development Board at IDED deals with annexation issues but has no teeth to enforce planning requirements.
 - F. COGs have a significant amount of information.
 - G. The former Office of Planning & Programming is now basically housed at IDED, so the focus is more on job creation and may have lost a planning focus.
4. Who is the customer of coordinated planning?
- A. We should look at integrated planning across the state.
 - B. Bruce Greiner says there are security issues so there needs to be a throttle on what is free and what isn't.
5. Incentives
- A. It is the role of this work group to recommend how to coordinate and implement, not WHAT the planning incentives should be.
 - B. We need help in crossing lines: federate, state, local
 - C. Money is needed to hold the attention of COGs and others.
 - D. Too often, planning is used as a means to an end (i.e. funding eligibility), not because it is needed
6. Hazard Mitigation
- A. Susan Judkins Josten reminded the group that the legislature passed the Smart Planning legislation because they saw it as a flood risk mitigation

proposal, and therefore legislators will be very interested in seeing recommendations that focus on this aspect.

- B. Aaron Todd reports that Wisconsin houses their planning office, known as the Intergovernmental Relations office, in their Department of Administrative Services
- C. LaVon Griffieon reminded the group that we need to be able to “sell” recommendations; maybe by saying they will reduce flooding and save money.

DRAFT 7-28-10 Meeting Notes
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(Smart Planning Task Force Established under SF2389)

10:30 AM

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Des Moines, IA 50319

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Susan Judkins Josten, Rebuild Iowa Office
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Dan Schlichtmann, INRCOG*
Michelle Shaffer, Department on Aging
Kirk Siegle, Southeast Iowa
Ruth Randleman, Mayor of Carlisle and Task Force Co-Chair *

Also visiting the meeting were Liz Van Zomeren from the Rebuild Iowa Office and Rick Hunsaker of IARC and Region XII, representing the Regional Comprehensive Planning work group.

- I. Don Temeyer, chair, welcomed the group and led introductions. He welcomed new work group members Francis Boggus and Linda Howard from the Department of Cultural Affairs, Senator Pam Jochum from Dubuque, Ron Gaines from the City of Cedar Falls, and Kirk Siegle and Al Muhlenbruck from Southeast Iowa. Work group

members are encouraged to invite other interested parties to participate in future meetings.

- II. The Meeting Notes from the 7/7/10 work group meeting were approved.
- III. A list of planning resources prepared by INRCOG was reviewed and discussed. The list shows what planners have to go through to obtain data. Eric Abrams from the DOT reviewed GIS materials that were brought to the first meeting on 7/7/10 and are being posted on the Smart Planning web site. The “Return on Investment” document is of particular interest since it shows what can be saved by coordinating GIS data. Some cities and counties don’t have GIS yet. Don Temeyer asked the group where this type of information should be housed. Eric Abrams reminded everyone that the Iowa Geographic Information Council does not have the capacity to house the information today. Something needs to be formed with technical assistance capability and standardization influence, probably involving a State GIO and 4-5 staff members.. A good example is the State GIO in Arkansas. Iowa previously had a state GIO. It moved to ISU in the early 2000’s, becoming more educational in nature, and eventually funding was eliminated. Don Temeyer asked members of the work group to consider if their own agencies might serve as a repository. Kevin Blanshan said that any state-based coordination point will require a good cross-section to govern it. He said it makes sense to have a statewide clearinghouse, but there are concerns at the local level about any state bureaucracy.
- IV. 10:45 AM: Discussion with Professor Brian Ohm, University of Wisconsin, Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Mr. Ohm participated by phone. He is a professor and attorney, and worked with Wisconsin legislators in 1999 on their Smart Growth Law. He has reviewed Iowa’s law, which is somewhat tied to hazard mitigation and flooding. In Wisconsin, land use had been a hot button issue. A survey prior to the 1999 passage of legislation found that less than one-third of the local governments had a land use plan let alone a comprehensive plan. The lack of a “planning culture” was the impetus for their legislation, unlike Iowa where the impetus was risk mitigation. Over the past ten years, Wisconsin has accomplished a lot partly due to continued support from the legislature.

There are over 1900 local government units, including 72 counties, about 1200 towns (unincorporated communities) and the remainder cities and villages. Larger cities (Milwaukee, Madison) have their own land information programs. Wisconsin uses the term “town” to refer to unincorporated areas, while “cities” and “villages” are incorporated. Towns can’t annex, which creates intergovernmental conflict. Towns may have their own zoning, fall under county zoning, or have no zoning at all. A land information board oversees the land information program. It’s very county driven, with lots of collaboration between counties and the state.

Over 1600 comprehensive plans have been completed since 1999. This enormous effort in state planning hasn't resulted in "grand innovations." However, it is well supported by Wisconsin's Land Information Program which probably goes back 30 years when efforts were made to modernize the state's land information. All counties have Land Information Officers and have fairly sophisticated GIS programs. About 25 counties have planning departments and in those counties, the Land Information Officer is housed there. In others, the LIO may be housed with the conservation department of the registrar of deeds. When the legislature passed their planning law in 1999, the land information needed to support planning decisions was largely in place although there was more variance than exists today. This has historically been funded by real estate transfer fees. Demographic data has also been a helpful resource. Wisconsin also has nine regional planning commissions, which have produced most of the 1600+ comprehensive plans since 1999. They serve as consultants for a lower fee than private consulting firms charge. All but one of the regional planning commissions serve more than one county. They have a different structure than a COG or MPO, which often focus more on transportation; the regional planning commissions truly focus on planning. Regional Planning Commissions are funded through counties, which levy a tax or fee if they decide to participate in an RPC. Sometimes a local government that is struggling financially will drop out for awhile. They also apply for state and federal grants. The state does not fund the RPCs. No state agency oversees or coordinates the RPCs; they're independent. Each belongs to the Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions. When the RPCs were set up in the 1950s, the goal was to cover the state and boundaries were drawn without regard for geographic features or demographics. The strength of the regional planning offices creates a challenge for coordination at the state level. The state hasn't had a state planning office since the 1980's. There is no effort to oversee whether comprehensive plans match the "goals" upon which their state grant is awarded; "in theory they are contractually bound" and 15-25% of the funding is held back until the plan is completed. RPC commissioners are part-time, appointed based on the , and receive a per diem payment but no salary.

Wisconsin's 1999 legislation included a grant program to support planning that was housed in the Department of Administrative Services, but no corresponding planning administration was set up at the state level. DAS also administers the land information systems funding. The DNR was considered as a place to house the program, but they had no expertise in certain areas such as economic development so it was decided that DAS was the most appropriate location. Also, the leader of DAS was key in passing the legislation so the political intention was to leave it with that agency. The State of Wisconsin typically appropriates about \$2 million/year to support local planning. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis. Goals that are similar to Iowa's Smart Planning Principles are used to prioritize the planning awards. One of the highest criteria is having multiple jurisdictions involved in joint planning since this is seen as a way to reduce land use disputes.

Several state agencies are active in providing information to local communities. The DNR and DOT make information available, but the demand is not as great as originally expected due to the sophistication of local planning efforts. The Wisconsin Historical Society makes archeological information available without compromising security.

- V. 11:30 AM: Discussion with [Associate Professor Jerry Anthony, University of Iowa](#), Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning. Professor Anthony reviewed the chronology of state efforts to create incentives for planning, beginning with Hawaii in 1961. Some states have made planning mandatory, with or without incentives; and some have relied on incentives only. He mentioned that many consider the 1990 State of Washington's program, which is mandatory for communities in fast-growing areas and voluntary for other communities, has worked well. Other highlighted plans included 1) Oregon's planning, implementation and capacity building process, for which state funding is provided to keep planning departments operating but noncompliance can result in loss of funding eligibility; 2) Florida's process of preparing a plan at the state level and requiring locals to implement it; 3) Maine's process which only provides funding for capacity building and not implementing plans, but also withholds funding when noncompliance occurs; and 4) Vermont's funding of both planning and implementation based on approval by a regional entity. Professor Anthony will provide notes on the chronology to be kept with our records.

Professor Anthony also commented that zoning is inexpensive compared to comprehensive planning; perhaps an idea would be to require zoning or risk the loss of funding eligibility. Iowa could create a new state authority. In some other states, COGs have expanded their expertise beyond transportation. Iowa could look at creating regional planning bodies on a watershed basis. Perhaps an existing state agency could be empowered with planning oversight; possibilities could include the Department of Management, Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Economic Development, or the City Development Board that is housed at IDED.

- VI. Other Issues – The chair commented that watershed issues transcend this discussion and should be considered by the group. Perhaps the Iowa Flood Center could be contacted to participate in the next meeting on August 25th. Also, we should find out where agriculture interests stand on watershed issues and planning.

Bruce Greiner of the Office of Energy Independence will provide their report for distribution to the group for consideration of energy issues.

- VII. Next Meeting August 25, 2010 – The next meeting will be held from 10 AM – 3 PM on August 25th. Lunch will be ordered in. The chair said we need to focus on the best place to store planning information. Kirk Siegle suggested looking at what's available to support planning efforts instead of reinventing the wheel. The chair asked state

agencies to consider whether they want to volunteer to be the repository of information.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.